

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 DOE-15 SOE-02
SIG-03 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181874

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC; CAIRO PASS COOPER ON JULY 21

E.O. 11652:GDS

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TAGS: EAID, EEC, MIDEAST

SUBJECT:EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE: EC COMMISSION WORKING LEVEL
ENERGY PROPOSALS

REF: BRUSSELS 13878

1. WE APPRECIATE MISSION'S ASSESSMENT OF INTERNAL COMMISSION STAFF PROPOSALS FOR REVITALIZING THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, PARTICULARLY YOUR EARLY WARNING CONCERNING POSSIBLE TROUBLESOME EC INITIATIVES IN THE ENERGY AREA. WE ARE CONCERNED OVER THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US INTERESTS -- AND OUR RESPECTIVE COMMITMENTS TO INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY COOPERATION IN ENERGY -- OF COMMISSION WORKING LEVEL RECOMMENDATION THAT THE EC GRANT PREFERENTIAL ACCESS FOR ASSURANCES FROM ARABS ON CRUDE OIL SUPPLIES. AS THE MISSION SUGGESTS, WE WOULD ACTIVELY OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL WERE IT TO RECEIVE A GENERAL COMMISSION ENDORSEMENT.

2. IN OUR VIEW, SUCH A PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME WOULD CONSTITUTE A TRADE CONCESSION TO ARABS OF CLEAR COMMERCIAL VALUE IN FUTURE YEARS IN RETURN FOR A VAGUE UNDERTAKING FROM THEM CONTAINING NO REAL ASSURANCE OF ENERGY SUPPLIES TO MEET ALL EUROPEAN NEEDS FOR CRUDE UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

MOREOVER, SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD TEND TO UNDERCUT COMMITMENTS MADE BY IEA MEMBERS NOT TO SEEK SECURITY OF OIL SUPPLY THROUGH UNILATERAL, AND ULTIMATELY FUTILE, SOLUTIONS TO OUR COMMON PROBLEMS OF OIL IMPORT DEPENDENCE AND VULNERABILITY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WHICH EUROPEANS MIGHT APPROPRIATELY DISCUSS WITH ARABS IN CONTEXT OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE. BUT
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WE BELIEVE THE PROPER FORUM FOR COORDINATING ANY MULTILATERAL APPROACHES TO PRODUCERS ON QUESTIONS OF SUPPLY AND PRICE OF OIL IS THE IEA.

3. WHILE WE SHARE YOUR DOUBTS THAT THIS AND RELATED WORKING LEVEL ENERGY PROPOSALS WILL GET OFF THE GROUND, WE AGREE THAT THE QUESTION MERITS OUR CONTINUING CLOSE ATTENTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE CONCUR IN THE MISSION USING APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITIES TO REINFORCE THOSE IN THE COMMISSION AND AMONG THE PERM REPS WHO ARE AGAINST BROADENING THE SCOPE OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE IN THIS FASHION. CHRISTOPHER

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